

KEY
TO THE
EGYPTIAN
HIEROGLYPHIC ALPHABET.

GLATHERIFF.—PRINTED & LITHOGRAPHED BY H. W. ALLEY.

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E G Y P T I A N

HIEROGLYPHIC ALPHABET.

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EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE I.

THE more we contemplate the structure of written language, the more we feel our admiration and astonishment excited. The idea of analysing speaking sounds, of resolving them into simple elements, and above all, of rendering these elements the objects of sight, and thus giving them a visible, permanent, and portable existence, so that what is committed to their custody may be preserved from one generation to another, and transmitted from one country to another, wherever there is the means of communication, seems to be more than we either can, or ought to ascribe to the efforts of mere human intellect; especially when we take into the account the many centuries that elapsed from the Creation to the days of Moses; beyond which period, the researches of the learned have not been able to extend the discovery of this useful art. Another circumstance worthy of regard is, that the Hieroglyphic or Picture Alphabet—which no doubt was prior to all others—bears that characteristic, by which the laws of nature are distinguished, and which in a peculiar manner mark the operations of unerring wisdom, viz. the combination of the greatest possible effect, with the greatest possible simplicity. Reasoning thus, we cannot help referring the origin of alphabetical writing, to impressions made on the human mind, by Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

The principle on which the Picture Alphabet is formed, is such as renders every letter its own expositor; for every form exhibited to the eye, represents the initial letter in the name of that object: thus, in an English Picture Alphabet, an Arch, or an Arrow, would stand for A. because the initial of the words, Arch and Arrow.

A Bell or a Ball, would represent the letter B.

A ^cBat, a Cage, or a Chain, would stand for C. and so on, so that any person acquainted with the principle on which the alphabet is formed, and knowing the name of the object depicted, would instantly recognise the letter, though he had never seen it thus represented before. The simplicity of this principle is truly admirable, and is applicable to all languages, as will be exemplified in the second Plate of this tract.

From the names by which the letters of the Hebrew alphabet are designated, there is every reason to presume that these letters were represented by the pictures of those subjects whose names they bear.

Thus: Gimel, a Camel; Jod or Yod, the Hand; Ain or Oin, the Eye; Pa or Pha, the Mouth; Rash, the Head; and, Shin, the Teeth, were the names of the pictured objects, whose names began with the sound G. J. or Y.; A. or O.; P. or PH.; and, SH. or S.

PLATE II.

THE second Plate contains various exercises in Hieroglyphic reading. In the first and left hand division, are the personal names of Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman governors of Egypt, arranged without regard to Chronological order; but those that are simplest, are placed first,—and those that are more complex follow. These names are included within a frame according to the Egyptian mode of distinguishing personal names from the general subject.

In reading ancient languages, it is often necessary to supply the requisite vowels. Thus: in the nominal inscriptions,

Fig. 1, wants an E. as N. R. A. is to be read Nerva.

Fig 2, A. L. C. S. N. D. R. Alexander.

Fig 3, R. M. S. S. Rameses, beloved of Phtha.

Fig 4, K. L. O. P. T. R. A. Cleopatra.

Fig 5, A. D. R. I. A. N. S. K. S. R. Adrianus Cæsar immortal, or, The immortal Adrianus Cæsar.

Fig 6, D. O. M. T. N. S. S. B. S T. S. Domitianus Sebastus, i. e. Augustus.

Fig 7, B. R. N. I. S. E. Berenice.

Fig 8, a. Title; Son of the sun. b. King of an obedient people.

a. P. T. O. L. M. A. I. S. Ptolemais, the immortal.

b. Resplendent Deity—approv'd of Phtha—Living image of Ammon Re.

In the second or right hand division, I must claim the indulgence of the reader, who may be conversant in these subjects. It is, I am well persuaded, the first time that a subject in the English language has been exhibited in Hieroglyphic characters; and must necessarily be but imperfectly executed.





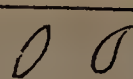















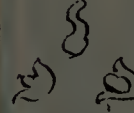







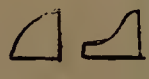

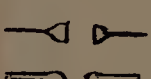


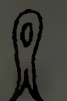


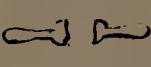




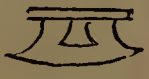
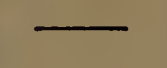









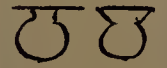



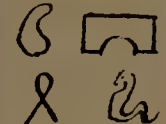






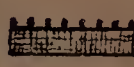


The subject is taken from the Scriptural account of the death of King JOSIAH, in consequence of his engaging in battle with PHARAOH NECHO, King of Egypt. *2 Chronicles*, c. 35.

In the English language, we have letters that are not to be found in the Egyptian, and the vowels require a more decided character than that which pertains to them in ancient writings. What was wanting in this way, I have supplied in the column that precedes the exercises, and trust the reader will derive much entertainment from his endeavours to develope the subjects before him.



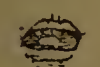
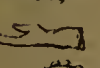

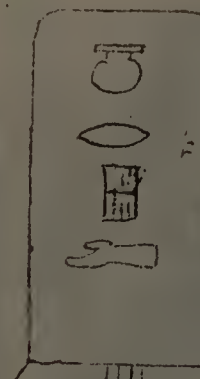
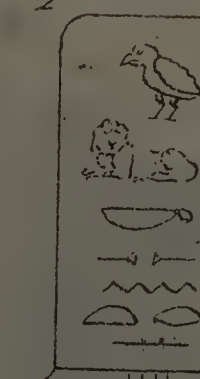
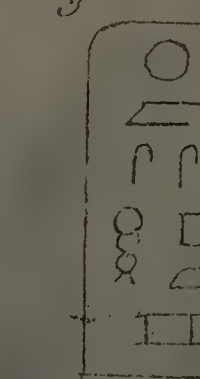
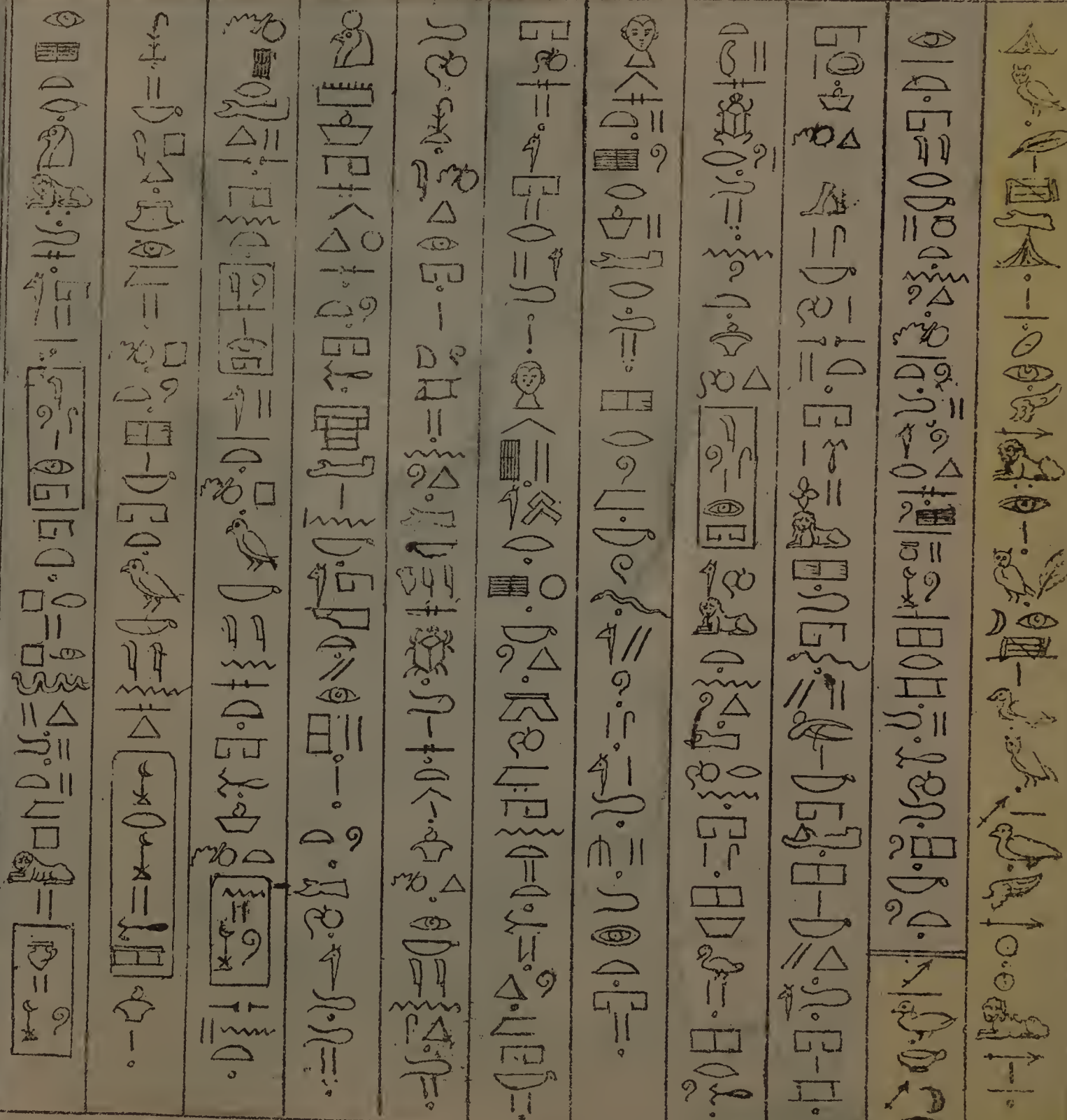


















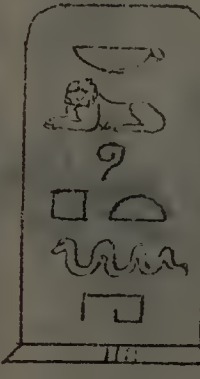
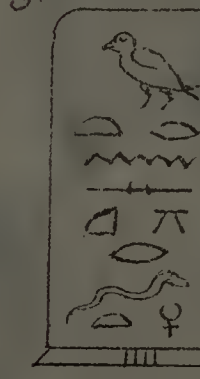
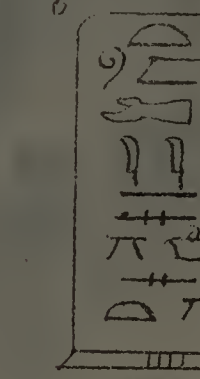
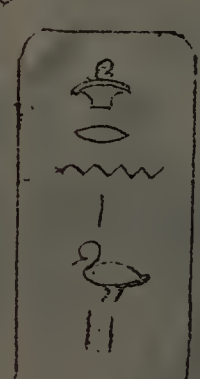

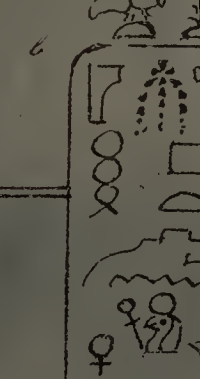

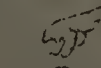
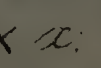
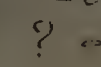

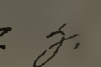


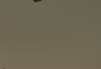



The reader will find a short specimen of the Hebrew Picture Alphabet. In this are an eye; a hand; and a head. The same are adopted by the Egyptians: the hand and the head, stand for different letters in the two alphabets, because the names differ in the two languages; but the eye standing for the same letter in the Egyptian Alphabet, seems to shew its adoption from the Hebrew.

ALPHABET.

SYMBOLS.

A	B	D ₃ T	VO.U	IEIH	L ₃ R.	M	N	S		
										Obedient People.
										King
					R		P.PH			Son.
			CH	C_{as}K						Phtha.
		H					S			Approved of
	G₃K									Resplendent God.
			TH			N				Sun
	D₃T				M			SH		Immortality.
										Beloved of
		VO.U	IEIH							Living Image of
										
										

EXERCISES.

 <i>Gamel.</i>  <i>Ain.</i>  <i>Pha.</i>  <i>Jod.</i>  <i>Rash.</i>	<div>1</div>  <div>2</div>  <div>3</div> 	<p>  </p>												
<div>  <i>Ph</i>  <i>J</i>  <i>R</i>  <i>A</i>  <i>G</i>  <i>Ph</i>  <i>J</i>  <i>R</i>  <i>A</i>  <i>G</i>  <i>Ph</i>  <i>J</i>  <i>R</i>  <i>A</i>  <i>G</i>  <i>Ph</i>  <i>J</i>  <i>R</i> </div>	<div>4</div>  <div>5</div>  <div>6</div>  <div>7</div>  <div>8</div>  <div>9</div> 	<p>English Abbreviations. &c.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	